(b) if so, the details of the special schemes envisaged for the development of these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Muzaffarpur and Samastipur districts of Bihar have been categorized as industrially backward districts of Category-B as per the classification adopted for availing benefits under the Income-tax Act.

(b) Under the Growth Centre Scheme of Government of India, a Project has been sanctioned for Muzaffarpur district at a cost of Rs. 3311.00 lakh. There is no growth centre in the district of Samastipur.

Monitoring of important projects/schemes

1830. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the Tenth Plan introduced the system of quarterly performance review of various Ministries, the Planning Commission has carried out a review of the system itself and identified various areas where improvement could be brought about including the quality of monitoring;

(b) if so, whether important issues, including thrust areas, priority areas and reforms measures should be highlights which can be monitored in the Quarterly Performance Review mettings; and

(c) if so, to what extent these measure would improve public expenditure and ensure timely and effective implementation of approved projects and schemes leading to effective utilization of resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In order to ensure timely implementation of approved Central Sector, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State Sector Schemes/Projects/ Programmes, a system of Quarterly Performance Review (QPR) has been introduced by Planning Commission for which guidelines have been issued from time to time to make the system more effective and useful. Besides the review of the achievement of physical and financial targets set out for the individual

schemes/projects/programmes in these meetings, emphasis is also given to the monitoring of the progress made in the priority agenda items/thrust areas as well as in the areas where the reforms are required to be introduced by the Ministries/Departments.

(c) QPR meetings would largely help, effective implementation of on going schemes/projects. It would also ensure cost effective approach in implementation and lead to effective utilization of allocated resources.

Diversion of funds by States

1831. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has found discrepancies in working of power reforms initiatives launched a few years back where funds allocated to States have been found to be diverted elsewhere; and

(b) if so, what corrective steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No case of diversion of funds under Accelerated Power Development Reform Programme (APDRP) by States has been reported to Planning Commission. The programme is monitored by the Ministry of Power and the current status of funds released and their utilization is attached for information as statement (See below).

(b) Does not arise. However, to ensure that there is no delay for release of APDRP funds by the States to State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/ Utilities, this is being monitored by a Steering Committtee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Power), which also has representatives from Planning Commission and Department of Expenditure. In the last Steering Committee meeting held on 28-11 -2003, it was decided that:

i) In specific cases of delay on the release of APDRP funds, Ministry of Power would inform Ministry of Finance for making it mandatory before release of normal assistance by Ministry of Finance.

ii) To write to all State Government that they give their consent with approval of the State Finance Department for release of APDRP funds to the implementing agencies.

iii) To withdraw the sanctions of APDRP where State Governments have not released funds.